

1 February 1949

MEMORANDUM FOR ICAPS FILES

Subject: COVERAGE OF INTERNATIONAL COMMUNISM

Notes on the memorandum of 25 January 1949 and enclosures from AD/ORE to DCI:

1.a. It is recognized that International Communism is THE dominant interest of CIA and all U. S. Government Intelligence Agencies and that whatever may be done effectively and efficiently to more completely cover this field will be beneficial to our National Security.

However, we don't want the trees to obscure the forest or complicated "agreements" to cut off or shackle good sources or duplicate good work already being done, i.e., there should not be change merely for the sake of change. Also, CIA should not take on International Communism alone and start from scratch when State and FBI have been concerned with it for a long time already.

1.b. I think the first phase of this problem is NOT to ascertain what coverage of the subject should be given but rather what coverage is already being given by the various agencies to this subject; and then, secondly, by considering what should be covered and how the existing gaps which CIA might be able to fill.

The attached report gives me the impression of starting everything on this matter from scratch rather than building on what we now have and filling in and improving the existing situation which has developed gradually over many years.

2. "Research" on Communism nowadays (i.e., historical background, etc.) is much less important than its current direction and activities against the U. S. and friends, how to counteract them, etc. Many have written the history of Communism already. We want to know its current operations, where it is headed, when, if ever, it will arrive, what we should do to counteract it.

The SANACC 401 Series and especially the NSC 17 Series on Internal Security have a lot to say on this subject. See NSC 17, June 28, 1948, pp 6-21 for a brief history of Communism.

3. Communism is primarily a political matter (it doesn't "overlap" politically) within State's field of "Dominant Interest", so far as its foreign status goes. CIA should not duplicate the work

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that has been and is being done by State.

On the other hand, FBI should be the source on Communism within the U. S. and it must have most valuable and complete files on this subject - probably going beyond the Internal Security slant.

Why doesn't NSCID No. 3 cover this subject?

Why hasn't an agreement already been reached with OIR on this, at the beginning of these studies rather than after ORE's planning staff has spent a lot of time (June-December 1948) on drawing up a plan?

State has a monthly publication on Soviet Affairs (formerly two every month) which has been circulating for some time. It covers many phases of Communism throughout the world.

I should think that the Specialists on Communism in OIR and ORE, assisted by FBI, could meet frequently and concentrate, by working agreements, on different phases of Communism to supplement (not replace or duplicate) each other's work on this subject; so that together the total effort will provide very good if not "complete" coverage - without unwieldy "committees" imposed one on another almost ad infinitum.

*Am talking this over with Manning in a
day or two*

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